

A Top ten tips for backpackers

Read the tips and then do the exercises on the next page.



1. **Be positive:** Whatever happens on your trip, keep a healthy attitude. Don't let bad incidents ruin your whole experience. You worked hard to get to this point, so enjoy it.

2. **Be patient!** You will not catch every train, bus, ferry and plane. Instead of getting angry, take the time to explore the surroundings². You will have to wait, but at least you are waiting in some exotic country!

3. **Pack light:** Remember the motto: "Pack everything you think you will need, and then get rid of³ half of it." Make sure your backpack fits⁴ well, and before your trip spend some time walking with it full. You may also want to take a smaller daypack to carry your things round during the day, like your camera, diary, food, water, etc. Don't forget your Swiss Army Knife and a first aid kit.

4. **This isn't a fashion show:** Don't pack clothes you wouldn't be willing to throw away, and don't take jeans. They are too heavy and take too long to dry. Khaki pants are better, and cargo pants are helpful for their extra pockets. Wear comfortable shoes. If your feet are happy, you are happy.

5. **Talk to people:** Start talking to strangers⁵ on the train, and don't stop until you are home again. You will be very lonely if you do not allow yourself the chance to meet new people. You especially need to do this if you are travelling with a friend.

6. **Keep a diary:** You will learn a lot about yourself on this trip. Write down what you see and who you meet. Start writing on the first day, and don't be lazy. You will be glad that you did this in ten or twenty years. A small book with no lines is the best. Remember to draw pictures!

7. **Take pictures:** Bring home the proof⁶ that you went cliff-diving. Even if you aren't the best photographer, the pictures you take mean more than postcards and books. Take more pictures of people rather than objects, or of both of them.

8. **Be independent:** Don't worry too much about risks. Just do it! And even if you are travelling with a friend, do things by yourself, too.

9. **Be confident:** Believe in your ability⁷ to get from one place to another, whether across the continent or the city. Even if you don't know what you are doing, confidence can cover this up.

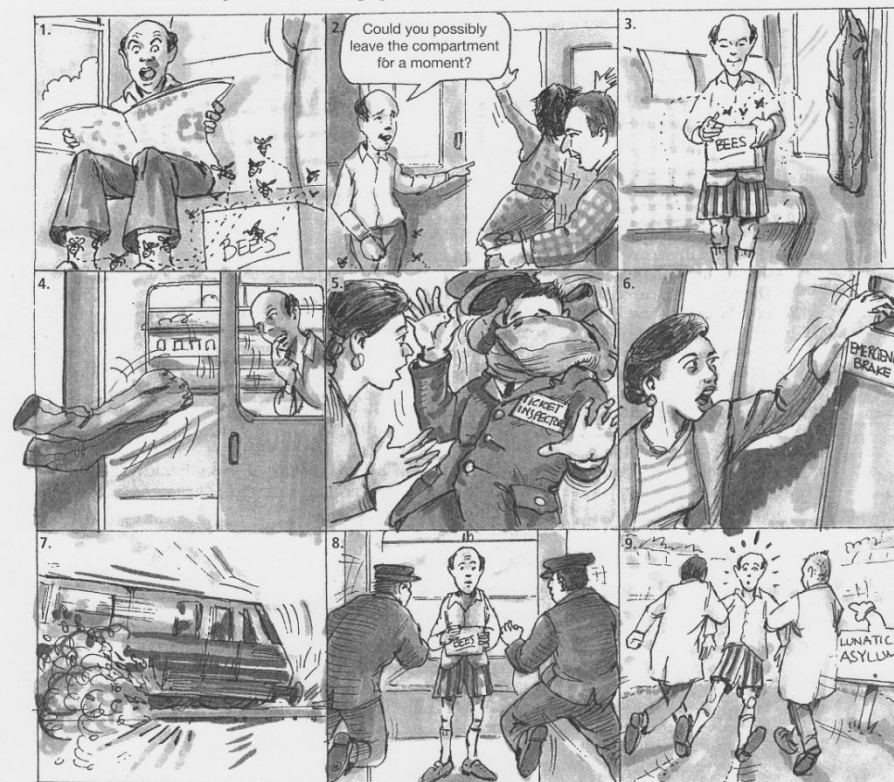
10. **Be yourself:** You will meet a lot of people on your trip. Be yourself and let them enjoy the company of a great guy/girl.

¹patient ['peɪʃnt] geduldig ²surroundings [sə'raʊndɪŋz] Umgebung ³to get rid of s.th. [get 'rɪd əv] etwas loswerden
⁴to fit [fɪt] passen ⁵stranger ['streɪndʒə] Fremde/r, Unbekannte/r ⁶proof [pru:f] Beweis ⁷ability [ə'bɪləti] Fähigkeit

7 →E Picture story: Strange but true

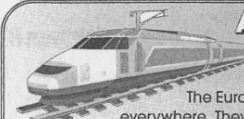
The pictures tell a strange but true story. Write the story in 120–150 words.

Start like this: A beekeeper¹ was travelling by train when ...



8 →E Translation

Translate the following advertisement into German.



All about train travel

If you're planning a trip to Europe and aren't sure of the best way to get around, why not try exploring by train?

The Europeans use it every day and for good reason. The trains go everywhere. They run on time, frequently and quickly. And they can take you directly into the heart of Europe's cities. They can also take you to remote areas, and give you the chance to do the kind of sightseeing that's almost impossible from a car or a plane. The main airports, big cities and small villages are all linked by the extensive European rail network – in fact, the network is over 100,000 miles.

Travelling by train is a great experience. It's comfortable and effective, and has that sense of romance, too. The other real amusement is the chance to meet Europeans as they go about their day-to-day business.

¹beekeeper ['bi:ki:pə] Imker